Sir Hector Langevin M.P.

THE STATEMENT

— OF —

A PERMANENTLY DISABLED

NORTH-WEST VOLUNTEER.

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MINISTER OF MILITIA'S TREATMENT

— OF A —

PERMANENTLY DISABLED VOLUNTEER.

CHARLES T. HURRELL, late of the 90th Battalion, who fought at the battle of "Fish Creek," hereby makes the following statement, and humbly prays that the Parliament now assembled will see that justice is meted out to him, and that he gets his just dues.

That I have been a volunteer since the "Trent affair" in 1861.

That I took an active part in the formation of the first Chippewa Company of the 44th, in which my brother-in-law, the late John C. Kirkpatrick, Esq., J. P., was captain and paymaster.

That I subsequently assisted in raising the Cayuga Company of the 47th, in Haldimand, and was appointed senior sergeant.

That at the time of the breaking out of the late rebellion in the North-West, I was in Wennipeg and tendered my services to my Queen and adopted country in the 90th Battalion, and marched to and fought at "Fish Creek," where I contracted disease which has permanently disabled me and rendered me unfit for work of any kind, and quite unable to support myself or my wife.—(See Medical certificate.)

That after ten days lying in hospital tent near the battle-field, I was removed to Saskatoon in company with Doctor Roddick, the Surgeon-Major of the Militia of the Dominion, where, after my partial recovery, I was appointed by him Hospital Sergeant and night nurse over the sick, the dying and the wounded—(See Captain Clarke's letter attached)—and was invalided from Moosejaw hospital on my way home to Toronto on the 14th June, 1885.

That I remained there till the 7th February, 1886, without receiving one cent of compensation, when Col. Denison the D.A.G. at the old Fort advised me to come on here. I at once called on General

Middleton, who very kindly interested himself; but neither the late Lt.-Col. Lamontagne nor the Minister of Militia would even notice me

That I was without funds wherewith to purchase the common necessaries of life till the Deputy Minister (whose kindness to me all along has been unbounded) advanced me a small amount in June, 1886 —four months afterwards.

That I almost daily, though suffering intensely, endeavoured to get the Minister to appoint a Medical board, which he kept on depriving me of for months longer, when the Deputy Minister (Col. Panet) kindly authorized one to meet to examine me; the result of which was, I was allowed, by order of Council on the following August, $1.00 per day, to date from 1st July, 1885, to the 30th April, 1887, 660 days —$660.

That after that latter date I grew worse in health and weaker in strength, and applied to the Minister for another examination by the Medical board, in view of asking for a permanent pension, which was for more than three months refused me; and when I asked the Minister one day for further compensation as I was half-starved and had no money nor any place of abode or shelter, he coolly told me he did not care whether I starved or not, it was none of his business. The Deputy Minister then, in my presence, told him that the law was that as long as I remained at my home and not in hospital I was entitled to receive the daily net pay of my rank, with an extra allowance of 50 cents per day. To which the Minister replied he did not care about the law, he would not give me another cent, and told me not to dictate to him what the law was, and ordered me away from his presence.

The Deputy Minister, knowing I was in the right, very kindly advanced me $10 which (when the Minister became aware of it) he deducted out of my first permanent pension, granted me on the 13th November, 1888, together with $30 which Col. Panet had advanced me during the year 1888. The Department was at the same time and is still owing me for 272 days confinement at my own lodgings, as per paragraphs 907 and 910 of "Regulations and Orders" of the Militia of Canada,—which the Minister has been told by his subordinate officers in the Department; but, for a personal hatred against myself, which I can prove in his own hand-writing, he refuses to let his Deputy, Col. Panet, pay me.

That in June 1887, when he refused to speak to me or grant

me an audience and stopped my allowance altogether, I went to Earnscliffe to see the Premier, who treated me with the kindest sympathy and consideration, and wrote me at once a letter to Sir Adolphe P. Caron, who took no notice of either me or the letter, but gave it to his private secretary, and has never acted upon it—(See Sir John's letter attached).

That in order to show his animosity to me personally he, for *nine months* after my return from the North-West, refused to pay me a cent for sitting up at night in charge of the hospitals of the North-West field force as nurse and Hospital Sergeant, although I held a requisition from the Deputy Surgeon-General Roddick, and a letter from Doctor Bell backed by Dr. Bergin, M.P., the Surgeon General, that it was I who washed and carbolized the killed and coffined them prior to their transportation and final burial East. That on one occasion, after being three weeks in bed ill with inflamatory rheumatism, I was able to call at the buildings to see him, with the assistance of two sticks, as I could hardly walk. I sent in my card at half-past 9 and waited outside till 2 o'clock—suffering severe pain. He would not see me then on business but insultingly told me—go home you can't walk you are drunk, which he well knew was not true.

That the late Senator Plumb wrote him, as well as went to see him, about my case, but his promises to the Senator remain yet unfulfilled; also letters of Senator McCallum and other M.P's. who interested themselves on my account.—(See letters attached).

That prior to the campaign in the North-West I for fifty-five years enjoyed all the time most robust health. And besides having a first-class College education in the old country, I am a good accountant, a practical miller, brewer and malster by trade, neither of which occupations have I been able to follow since.

That the year 1884, before the rebellion, I commenced farming in Manitoba, four miles from Minnedosa, and prepared by summer fallowing, myself, over 30 acres of land—which time I lost, for I was absent in the spring of 1885 on the Saskatchewan and could get no crop put in. I made a claim but the Minister told the Claims Board, of whom Col. Jackson was chairman, not to entertain it. I also lost all my kit and clothes on the night of the battle, valued at $30.00, for which I never got a cent.

That I claimed before the Military board that my case should go

before them as Hospital Sergeant of the North-West Field Force, and not as late private of the 90th, to obtain a larger pension, as I knew my medical certificates would entitle me to be placed on the second degree, viz., "Men rendered incapable of earning a livelihood but not requiring the care of another person." (See paragraph 922.) This the Minister refused, although the board expressed themselves to me that they were sorry that I had to come before them for a full private's pension only; but paragraph 934 could, if the Minister chose, remedy that, which he refused to do notwithstanding Sir John's letter.

That the unkind, ungenerous, and inhuman treatment which I have received as a loyal British volunteer, crippled for the rest of my life, having offered it up in the service of my adopted country on the field of battle, and gradually dying from disease contracted, is a great contrast to the liberality of the United States to her citizen soldiery; and at my age (nearly 60) I think will not find a parallel in any other civilized country, not even in Russia.

That before the rebellion, for years I was enabled to remit to my aged mother in England (now over 90 years of age) to assist in her support, a small sum which I am not since able to continue; neither can I assist out of my pension of 55 cts. per day for the support of a wife.

That in August of 1887, the Deputy Minister wrote to me that $100.00 was placed to my credit provided I went to the Protestant Hospital for three months for medical treatment, the Minister still refusing to carry out my just rights as per paragraphs 907 and 910. I was then very ill indeed and after consultation with Sir James Grant, who expressed great surprise at the Minister's treatment of me, he being still under the impression that I was drawing my lawful allowance o. $1.00 per day, Sir James advised me to go, as I had at the time lo t the use of both legs from inflamatory rheumatism. Under kind and skilful treatment from all the attendants, doctors and nurses, matron and house-keeper, I partly recovered and was able to walk about when I lost the use of my right arm from the same ailment. All this time the Minister refused to send me a dollar, although the resident surgeon, Dr. Chipman, wrote several times for the payment of my account. At last $91.00 was sent to the Hospital Treasurer for 91 days keep, the balance of the $100.00 to my credit I have never received up to this day. Shortly afterwards Dr. Chipman wrote to the Minister that I was

again very ill and without means. The Minister answered that the Department would not become responsible for anything more on my account, and that there was nothing due me; but about the same time I received some papers to sign with check for $50.00, the words added, *in full of all claims against the Government*, which papers I (acting on the advice of all the doctors) returned as they told me that in my present state of health I might as well sign my death-warrant. I held on to the check until I recovered the use of my arm and then endorsed it with my name adding *without prejudice*.

That after the Medical and Military board had finally reported on my case very favorably on the 1st or 2nd day of August, 1888, the Minister withheld them from the Privy Council till the 13th November following, although repeatedly asked by myself and friends to do so. He still refused to give me a dollar all those months during which time I suffered from pain, hunger and want of proper shelter. I was confined to my bed at the Royal Exchange for a month, (October) without care or nursing and during that month repeated applications were made to the Minister and I gave written orders for a small amount but without any effect; not a cent would he allow Col. Panet to send me, so I again sent for Sir James Grant, who ordered me back to the Hospital where I suffered the loss of both legs till December. I wrote in November to Col. Panet that I did not think I could survive the winter. He replied to me in the most tender and kind manner, expressing deep regret that my extreme loyalty and patriotic devotion to my country had given me such disappointment, pain and suffering. It was then, and not till then, that the Minister (thinking my days would soon be numbered) would consent to bring my case before the Council for a private's pension.

That notwithstanding the refusal of the Minister to pay my hospital charges in the first place, he subsequently did so, under pressure from the Hospital authorities, to the amount of $108.00, which amount is debited to me in the books of the Department making, with the $91.00, a total of $199.00.

That I have asked for and have been refused either to read or obtain copies of any reports of the Medical board appointed to examine me, which I desired to have for my own guidance in regulating my future mode of living as to diet, &c.

That the amount allowed me, $1.00 per day prior to 30th April, 1887, and in the opinion of the Right Honorable the Premier totally

insufficient for my injuries, having been (after receipt of his letter to the Minister) taken from me altogether shows the ill-feeling against me in not bringing my case before the Council for any further consideration.

That on two different occasions the late Honorable Thomas White, Minister of the Interior, wrote me that if I could recover my health and could write as I used to, he would give me employment in his Department as he had known me for nearly thirty years before, when I was private secretary, to the late Thos. C. Street, M. P. for Welland, a brother-in-law of the late Senator Plumb and the late Lord Bishop of Niagara, but I have not and never will be able to accept any permanent calling, being confined to the house either in bed or on a lounge nine days out of ten with my diseases.

That in compliance with the law I handed the Minister four medical certificates in April, 1888, from Sir James Grant, Dr. H. P. Wright, Dr. McDougal and Dr. Chipman, House Surgeon on my discharge from Hospital, as incurable and unable to earn a living or support myself. He (in the presence of Col. Panet) the Deputy Minister, denied ever having received them. That was in July, three months afterwards, and in the interval, he refused to advance me a dollar for the purchase of food or even bring my case before the Privy Council after the Medical and Military boards' report in August, till the 13th November following, when he heard my end was approaching on a sick bed in the Hospital.

That in conclusion I wish most gratefully to thank all the officials, of the Department for their kindness, sympathy and benevolence, especially to the Deputy Minister, Col. Panet, the Adjutant General, Col. Powell, the Accountant, Mr. O'Meara, and also General Sir Fred Middleton, all of whom were aware of my sufferings and privations as above stated.

That the many acts of kindness and sympathy extended to me by every other member of the Government whom I have had the honor to interview, but who told me they could do nothing for me unless my case was brought before them in Council, (each Minister's Department being exclusively under his own control,) are strong evidences that they hold other feelings towards an old diseased and crippled volunteer than Sir A. P. Caron does, towards me, and are prepared to let justice predominate over spite and bitter hatred.

That there are a number of volunteers receiving much larger

pensions than I am (one as high as a thousand dollars a year) who are in good health and quite able to earn their own living, and all I received besides my hospital expenses is $760.00, for three years and four months to live upon, on the very kind recommendations of the Minister.

That I trust some honorable member on either side of the House will be kind enough, on my behalf, to ask for papers, etc., and obtain justice for me and avail himself of the power vested in him through paragraph 934, Rules and Regulations of the Militia, to ask for me compensation to meet the circumstances of my case as well as to get for me what is my legal right to receive under paragraphs 907 and 910 long past due in order that I may be able to repay those who kindly assisted me in many ways to prevent me coming to want during 1887 and 1888, when not in the Hospital but poor and penniless.

That out of my small pension of 55 cents per day, my rent costs 15 cents, with the use of a stove to cook my own food as no one will board me for the full amount of my allowance, and my ailments require bandages cleaned every day, besides the cost of medicines and medical attendance when required, which is very often, leaving me the balance of about 20 cents a day for the rest of my life to feed and clothe myself.

C. T. HURRELL,
Late Hospital Sergeant and
Night Nurse of the North-West
Field Force at Saskatoon, N.W.T.

N. B.—My pension is also further reduced by my having to borrow money in advance in order to supply my daily requirements, from money lenders at exhorbitant rates of interest, my check being every half year as yet paid to them through a power of attorney I had to give them. The official statement herewith will corroborate part of the above statement as far as amounts and dates are concerned. The whole statement is the truth. The papers in the Department will prove some, and I am prepared to produce under oath the balance, if a committee be allowed me.

C. T. H.

OTTAWA, Feb. 20, 1890.

Case A.—3284, Chas. P. Hurrell.

O. C. 3rd August, '86—1st July, '85 to 30th April, '87 - $660.00
" 23rd " '87 granted - - - - - - 100.00

$91.00 also paid to the Treasurer County Carleton General Protestant Hospital for 3 months from 27th Sept. to 26th Dec., 1887 at $1 per day.

O. C. 13th Nov., 1888. Protestant Hospital paid $108 for care and maintenance to 13th November, 1888.

Pension at rate of 55 cents a day granted from 13th Nov., 1888.
M. & D.
26-9-89.

(Copy)

EARNSCLIFFE, June 17, 1887.

MY DEAR SIR ADOLPHE :

I feel much interested in the bearer "Mr. C. T. Hurrell" who has suffered so seriously since "Fish Creek."

The pension given him is altogether insufficient for his injuries.

May I request you to take a personal interest in his case and much oblige.

Yours very sincerely,
(Sgd.) JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Note—This was written after, when by O.C. I was allowed $1.00 per day up to the 30th April. 1887, from 1st July, 1885 —C. T. H.

(Copy.)

RIDEAU CLUB, OTTAWA, June 18th, 1886

MY DEAR SIR ADOLPHE :

The bearer, Mr. C. T. Hurrell, late of the 90th Battalion, who has been a severe sufferer from inflamatory rheumatism and hemorrhage of the body ever since the N. W. campaign, has a strong claim which yours of the 2nd inst. refers to. He was for many years Secretary for my brother-in-law, the late Mr. Street, M. P. for Welland, and I know him to be in every way entitled to sympathy and consideration. He formerly took a very active part in our elections in Haldimand and Monk

and has done yeoman service for our party in both those counties. At present he is utterly crippled and helpless and quite dependent on what he may receive from the Government. May I request you to give his case your kind and early consideration and oblige.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J. B. PLUMB.

(Copy)

HOUSE OF COMMONS, June 1st, 1888.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON,

Minister of Militia.

DEAR SIR: The bearer Mr. C. T. Hurrell I have known for over twenty-five years and he has always been a strong and active friend of our party. He tells me he was in the last rebellion in 90th regiment and is suffering severely from disease and exposure in the service of his country. May I ask you to take his case into your favorable consideration and much oblige,

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) K. McCALLUM.

We heartily join in the above request.

THOS. SCOTT, M. P.
JAS. BEATY, M. P.
W. WOOD, M. P.
DR. FERGUSON, M. P.
J. H. BELL, M. P.

(Copy.)

MOOSEJAW 14th June, 1885.

DEAR HURRELL.

In parting from you on our leaving Hospital I wish to express to you my very sincere thanks for the care and kindness bestowed by you over the wounded since our engagement at "Fish Creek."

In your position at "Saskatoon" in the night charge of the Hospital, you were able to be of great service to the wounded, you unde ood the responsibility of your position and I am sure all will long ember your great kindness during those weary weeks.

Personally I feel your efforts in the interest of all the men to be a kindness done to myself.

Yours truly,

WM. CLARK,

Capt. F. Co., 90th, Battalion

To C. T. HURRELL C. Co., 90th, Battalion.

COPY OF CERTIFICATES.

SIR JAMES GRANT to SIR A. P. CARON.

150 ELGIN ST., OTTAWA, April 16th, 1888.

DEAR SIR ADOLPHE:

The bearer Mr. C. T. Hurrell of the 90th Regt., is still in a very poor state of health and quite unable to earn his living, And as he is about leaving the Hospital, I thought it right to give you the facts.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) J. A. GRANT.

The Hon.
SIR ADOLPHE CARON,
K. C. M. G.

Dr. McDougall's.

OTTAWA April 20th, 1888.

This is to certify that Mr. C. T. Hurrell has been confined in the County Hospital for the last seven months suffering from a disease contracted from exposure during the recent campaign in the North-West which has completely disabled him and rendered him unfit for work of any kind.

(Sgd.) P. A. McDOUGALL, M.D.

Dr. H. P. Wright.

Mr. C. T. Hurrell has been in the Carleton Hospital for seven months during which time I have seen him often. He is suffering from a complication of ailments dating back, I understand, to the recent rebellion in the North-West while on active duties in the 90th Regiment. He is still quite unfit for work of any kind and I am not prepared to say how long this inability will continue.

(Sgd.) H. P. WRIGHT, M. D.

Dr. Chipman's.

This is to certify that Mr. Chas. T. Hurrell has been an inmate of this hospital since 27th September last. During that time he suffered continuously from bleeding piles and "with slight intervals of relief" from acute articular rheumatism which has left him more or less crippled. He will be unable I think to engage in any occupation requiring continued application as he will be liable to be laid up from time to time with either or both the above ailments.

(Sgd.) C. J. H. CHIPMAN, B.A., M.D.,
House Surgeon.

(Copy)

DR. ORTON, M. P. June 2nd 1886.

My dear sir:

The matter of Sergeant Hurrell, late of the 90th, has been looked into and as soon as we have time will have it paid.

Yours very truly,
A. P. CARON.

L. MCCALLUM, ESQ., M. P.

My dear sir:

The matter of Sergeant Hurrell, late of the 90th, has been looked into and as soon as we have time will have it settled.

Yours very truly,
A. P. CARON.

PARAGRAPHS.

907. If any officer or man shall receive injury or contract illness on actual service, which although of a temporary nature, shall necessitate his release from such service, he shall be placed either in a military or civil hospital, and on his discharge from hospital he shall be conveyed to his own home at the public expense. If placed in hospital he shall be entitled while there to be paid only the net pay of his rank, but if he elects to be sent to his own home instead of to hospital, he will be paid a sum equal to the daily net pay of his rank, with an allowance, if an officer, of one dollar per diem, if a non-commissioned officer or man, fifty cents per diem, for the period during which, according to the certificate of two qualified medical practitioners, he shall have been actually and necessarily incapactitated from following his ordinary occupation ; and no allowance for medical attendance shall in any such case be given. O. C., 8, 6, 87.

910. Those suffering from disability, who are entitled to compensation under the provisions of paragraph 906 or 907 can, if necessary during the continuance of the disability, apply for a payment on account. In such instances the nature and cause of the disability must be established, and the date and amount of any previous payment shown, also the certificate of two medical practitioners must be appended to the claim as evidence of the continuance of the disability, and that the applicant is still incapacitated from following his ordinary occupation. O. C., 8, 6, 87.

934. In instances where the regulations do not meet the circumstances of individual cases, they may be specially considered by His Excellency the Governor General in Council.